

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD
Minutes of Organizational Meeting
July 13, 2026

Mr. Hennessey, District Board `Chair, called the organizational meeting of the Board of Western Technical College District to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2026, at Western Technical College, Administrative Center, 111 7th St, Rm 408, La Crosse, WI. Board members present: R. Alderson, C. Doering III, J. Felton, M. Greendeer-Rave, K. Hennessey, K. Peterson, M. Skarlupka, M. Wolf, and Roger Stanford, President. Excused. J. Dillin.

Notice of the meeting was posted publicly on July 09, 2026, at 1:33 p.m., and the agenda was distributed to interested people via the district's official newspaper (The La Crosse Tribune) and to other news media throughout the district, in compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 19.81-19.98.

Others present were J. Pintz, W. Hackbarth, A. Thornton, R. Hopkins, G. McCurdy, E. Nesius, K. Sorvaag, C. Heit, B. Peterson, L. Turner, T. Niebuhr, and M. Leske (Western employees).

Oath of Office: Hennessey administered the oath of office to the re-appointed members M. Wolf K. Hennessey (C. Doering arrived 3:20 and will be done at a later date in front of a notary or at the next board meeting), who were appointed to serve 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2026,- June 30, 2029. Signatures were obtained from Board members affirming their understanding and compliance with Policy A0106, the Oath of Office, and the Code of Ethics for the District Board.

Greendeer-Rave motioned, and Peterson seconded, that Chairperson Hennessey remains as the chair; asked three times for other nominations; no nominations. Motion carried. 6/0/0.

Alderson motioned, and Greendeer-Rave seconded, that Vice Chairperson Skarlupka, remains as the vice chair; asked three times for other nominations; no nominations. Motion carried. 6/0/0.

Greendeer-Rave motioned, and Hennessey seconded, that Secretary Peterson remains as the secretary; asked three times for other nominations; no nominations. Motion carried. 6/0/0.

Hennessey motioned, and Skarlupka seconded, that Treasurer Doering III remains as the treasurer; asked three times for other nominations; no nominations. Motion carried. 6/0/0.

Committee assignments are as follows: subcommittees: Budget and Facilities, Doering (chair), Peterson, Greendeer-Rave and Dillin; Policy, Skarlupka (chair), Alderson, and Wolf. District Boards Association (DBA) designee is Skarlupka, Hennessey will serve on the External Partners committee, and Peterson will serve on the DBA By-laws committee.

Motion Peterson seconded by Greendeer-Rave to approve the resolution of commendations for 1.Teresa Niebuhr, Student Account Specialist, Finance Operations & Workforce Development; 2. Brenda Peterson, Admin. Assistant, General Studies, Academic Affairs; 3. Scott Schumway, Programmer Analyst, Finance, Ops., & Wrkfc. Dvlp. 4. Roger Stanford, President, Executive; 5. Lori Turner, Accounting Specialist, Finance Operations & Workforce Development. Motion carried. 6/0/0 **attachments a, b, c, d & e.**

Presentations included Mc Curdy sharing an update of the facilities projects that are going on around at the main campus, Sparta and the regional learning centers. After the consent agenda, the president's and chai's report P. Goss from the District Boards Association shared an update. No action taken.

Skarlupka shared an update on the policy committee's policies C0407 Reimbursement for Interview & Relocation Expenses Policy and E0712 Care Team Policy, which are scheduled for first-reading approval today.

Motion Skarlupka seconded by Peterson, that the Board approve the following consent items as presented: 1. a. June 2, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes, b. June 16, 2026, Reg Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes, c. June 16, 2026, Policy Sub-Com Minutes 2. a. Vendors Over \$2,500-June 2026, b. Capital Project Reports-June 2026, c. General Revenue/Expense Rep-May-2026, d. Dept. Budget Summary-May 2026, e. Enterprise Servc. Summary-May 2026. 3. a. G0103 Data & Records Retention (second read), b. C0407 Reimbursement for Interviews & Relocation

Expenses, (first read), c. E0712 Care Team Policy (first read). Motion carried. 6/0/0. Doering arrived 3:15, Wolf arrived 3:20.

Motion Peterson seconded, by Greendeer-Rave, that the Board approve the Monthly Approvals: 1. Designation of the District's Official Newspaper 2026-27; 2. Designation of the District's Attorneys 2026-27; 3. Designation of the District's Public Finance Advisor 2026-27; 4. Designation of the District's Public Depositories 2026-27; 5. Designation of Date/Time/Location of District Board Meetings 2026-27. 8/0/0.

Roll Call: Motion Greendeer-Rave seconded by Skarlupka, to approve and adopt the following: 1. Approve and adopt the signed President's Contract between Western Technical College and Dr. Kirk Bennett, effective August 1, 2026; 2. Adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$2,045,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026C of Western Technical College District, Wisconsin. R. Alderson, Y; ~~J. Dillin, A~~; C. Doering III, Y; J. Felton, Y; M. Greendeer-Rave, Y; K. Hennessey, Y; K. Peterson, Y; M. Skarlupka, Y; M. Wolf, Y. Motion passed. 8/0/0

President's Report: President Stanford shared that the state board will be approving the property/land gift at it's meeting later this week; the closing will be held on August 3, that will be the same day we take over ownership and the current leases; there will be a public announcement on August 12 at 1 pm, more details to come. We will be donating a small piece of property to the Hixton House, this is a sliver of land that they are currently maintaining (Western used to have student housing where the current Kumm Center is and near the Hixton House). The WTCS is holding their state board meeting on our campus this week Tuesday and Wednesday, members of the board and leadership have been invited to attend the Future Makers Dinner where we will honor on our local businesses. Roger also shared his many thanks to those around him, the vice presidents, his direct reports and other college leaders and the board during his time as President.

District Board Chairperson's report: Chair Hennessey thanked everyone for their work and service to the board and reminded them of the Plus Delta feedback, if you have any.

4:35 Doering departed, 4:40 Wolf departed.

4:48 p.m. Motion Greendeer-Rave seconded by Hennessey to adjourn. Motion carried. 6/0/0.


Ken Peterson, Secretary



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Teresa Niebuhr**

Whereas, Teresa Niebuhr, Student Account Specialist in the Cashier's Office, will retire from Western Technical College on August 3, 2026, after completing nearly 16 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Teresa has rarely missed days and was extremely dependable and dedicated to the college while assisting students and supporting the important work of the Cashier's Office—as long as she wasn't looking for Bigfoot or sewing up a storm; and

Whereas, she has contributed to a welcoming and professional environment by treating students, co-workers, and visitors with courtesy, patience, and respect; and

Whereas, Teresa has worked collaboratively as a valued member of the Cashier's Office team—her favorite team member being her spreadsheet; and

Whereas, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to accuracy, reliability, and service, helping ensure the daily operations of the college run smoothly and efficiently; and

Whereas, her steady presence, ability to turn “squirreling” into a true art form, and love of rocks will be missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Teresa Niebuhr for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Teresa many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

**Western
Technical College**

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Kevin Hennessey, Board Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Brenda Peterson**

Whereas, Brenda Peterson, Administrative Assistant in the General Studies and Services Division, will retire from Western Technical College on August 3, 2026, after completing 11 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Brenda has been a creative employee who consistently sought solutions that improved the experience of students, faculty, and co-workers while helping General Studies operate with efficiency and care; and

Whereas, she has combined compassion with exceptional organizational and analytical skills, becoming known for her expertise with data, mastery of Excel, thoughtful event planning, and commitment to ensuring others have what they need to succeed; and

Whereas, Brenda has built meaningful relationships throughout the college by offering encouragement, welcoming new employees with warmth and enthusiasm, and going above and beyond to support colleagues during both life's challenges and celebrations; and

Whereas, she has exemplified generosity and kindness through countless acts of caring, always placing the well-being of others first and creating a workplace where people felt valued, supported, and connected; and

Whereas, Brenda's positive spirit, compassionate outlook, colorful enrollment spreadsheets, and unwavering commitment to helping others have made a lasting impact on the Western community; and

Whereas, her warmth, generosity, expertise, and bright presence will be deeply missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Brenda Peterson for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Brenda many happy and satisfying years in her retirement.

**Western
Technical College**

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Kevin Hennessey, Board Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Scott Shumway**

Whereas, Scott Shumway, Programmer Analyst in the Information Technology department, will retire from Western Technical College on August 3, 2026, after completing nearly 14 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Scott has been a dedicated employee who consistently sought the best possible solutions to support his co-workers and contribute to the success of the college; and

Whereas, he has been recognized for his ability to explain complex issues in a clear and approachable way, helping others better understand challenges and identify practical solutions; and

Whereas, Scott has brought humor to the workplace, using his wit to keep conversations engaging and create a welcoming and enjoyable work environment; and

Whereas, his expertise, support, and wry sense of humor will be missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Scott Shumway for his years of service and his commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Scott many happy and satisfying years in his retirement.

**Western
Technical College**

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Kevin Hennessey, Board Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Roger Stanford**

Whereas, Roger Stanford, President of Western Technical College, will retire on August 14, 2026, after completing nearly 12 years of exceptional leadership and dedicated service to the students, employees, communities, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Roger has led with the heart of an educator, combining a passion for teaching, instructional design, and lifelong learning with an unwavering commitment to student success, open access, and the mission of career and technical education; and

Whereas, he has fostered a culture of innovation and continuous improvement by championing professional development, empowering employees at every level of the organization, and encouraging new ideas that have strengthened Western and influenced higher education throughout Wisconsin and beyond; and

Whereas, Roger has built meaningful partnerships across the Wisconsin Technical College System and the nation through his commitment to collaboration, innovation, and student-centered initiatives, while skillfully bringing people together to turn ideas into action; and

Whereas, he has demonstrated a deep appreciation for faculty, a steadfast commitment to serving veterans, and a belief in maintaining a healthy work-life balance, inspiring others through both his leadership and his genuine care for people; and

Whereas, Roger's quick wit, enthusiasm, memorable AFIT costumes, love of adventures in galaxies far, far away, and enduring dedication to excellence have left an indelible mark on the Western community; and

Whereas, his visionary leadership, passion for education, commitment to students and employees, and ability to inspire others will be greatly missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and gives a special commendation to Roger Stanford for his years of distinguished service, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Roger many happy, healthy, and fulfilling years in his well-earned retirement.

**Western
Technical College**

Kevin Hennessey, Board Chair



Western Technical College

Resolution of Commendation to **Lori Turner**

Whereas, Lori Turner, Accounting Specialist in the Finance Department, will retire from Western Technical College on August 3, 2026, after completing more than 25 years of loyal and dedicated service to the students, staff, and the District Board of the Western Technical College District; and

Whereas, Lori has provided exceptional service to the college through her extensive knowledge of accounting practices, regulations, and financial processes, becoming a trusted resource whose expertise helped colleagues across the institution successfully carry out their own work; and

Whereas, she has demonstrated remarkable attention to detail, an outstanding work ethic, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, often going above and beyond to ensure important projects and processes were completed accurately and on time; and

Whereas, Lori has built meaningful relationships with co-workers through her kindness, patience, sense of humor, and willingness to listen, guide, and support others, earning the respect and friendship of colleagues throughout the college; and

Whereas, she has been a valued member of the Finance Department whose professionalism, reliability, and collaborative spirit have helped Western navigate years of growth, changing systems, and evolving financial processes; and

Whereas, Lori is one of the unsung heroes who keep Western running smoothly—her knowledge, dedication, positive outlook, and generous spirit have made a lasting impact; and

Whereas, her expertise, friendship, sunny disposition, and supportive presence will be greatly missed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of the Western Technical College District hereby expresses its appreciation and gives a special commendation to Lori Turner for her years of service and her commitment to excellence; and be it

Resolved, that the Western Technical College District Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students all wish Lori many happy and satisfying years in her retirement. May she “rock on” in retirement.

**Western
Technical College**

Roger Stanford, PhD, President/District Director

Kevin Hennessey, Board Chair